

VLADIMIR AGRIGOROAEI, **The funerary slab of a ‘suffragan’ bishop of Alba Iulia: *Saulus* (†1309/1310?) or *Benedictus* (†1320)**

**Abstract:** The purpose of this article is that of republishing, reediting, and analysing an epigraph previously dated to the end of the fourteenth century. The funerary slab is 154/168 cm long, 58 cm wide, and 32 cm high; it is placed in the lapidary of the southern gallery in the Alba Iulia Orthodox Archbishopric’s inner yard. Re-evaluating the previous hypotheses that were linking the slab to a suffragan of bishop Goblin, the author considers that the slab dates back to the beginning of the aforesaid century. It carries an inscription following each of the four sides of the stone. Two supplementary lines, inside the first four, follow the longer sides. At their centre, one finds a representation of a bishop’s crosier. This and the word EPISCOPVS from the inscription, allows one to propose that the tomb belonged to a catholic bishop from the beginning of the fourteenth century. A similar and more precise dating (1290-1320) could be drawn from the comparison with the inscriptions in Luncani (1290, 1299), Bistrița (1320), Reghin (1330), and Aiud (1334). The text of the inscription may be the following one:

1. [† HIC IACET ...?]
2. [..?]S ° EPISCOPVS ° L[...] TENENS
3. SVFRAGAN
4. E<V>S ° D<OMI>NI ° GOBLIN<I> [?]MI[?]C[...?]
5. [..?]VN<T ?> A POPVL<O> ° DOMINIC<O> [?]
6. [..?]<A> IN ° ANNO ° D<OMINI> ° M ° CCC ° [...]

(† Here lies...)s the bishop l(...) keeping, suffragan of lord Goblin (...) by the Lord’s people (...) in the year of the Lord 13(...).

When comparing the stone with the slabs of other Alba Iulia bishops (Andrew Szécsi, †1356; Dominic Szécsi, †1368; and Goblin, †1386), the early dating seems to be well advised, and the list of possibilities is reduced to three historical figures: the bishop Peter Monoszló (1270-1307); the vicar general Saul (c. 1308-1309), an archdeacon of Turda; and the bishop Benedict (1309-1320), a former Dominican from the monastery of St Margaret island in Budapest. An analysis of *locum tenens* and *suffraganeus* (two key-terms of the inscription), further reduces the list to Saul and Benedict. The author observes that the two words might be linked to Saul, but there are also cases of former Franciscans who became bishops and maintained a suffragan relationship with their original abbey. After a brief analysis of *populus dominicus*, which may hide the presence of the Alba Iulia chapter, the author ends without being able to choose between the two. The only proof one might bring into consideration could be the identification of the spurious *dominus Goblins* from the text of the inscription. He could be a Dominican abbot, a bishop, or an archbishop.

**Keywords:** funeral slab, epigraphy, bishop, uncials, Alba Iulia, Transylvania.

OANA TODA, **Evidence on the engineering and upkeep of roads in late medieval Transylvania**

**Abstract:** As part of the historical landscape of the Transylvanian voivodat, the medieval road system benefits of scattered details and general information that scholars can use when attempting at its reconstruction. While the overall situation regarding major trade

routes and public roads has been looked into based on archival data alone (due to their occurrence in late medieval charters and travel accounts or reports) almost no enquiry has been conducted with the aim of retrieving accurate details about the material aspects of the presumed routes. This paper is aiming at outlining the sources available for the study of the actual road tracks, by highlighting the importance of written, archaeological and cartographic evidence when it comes to identifying and rendering these particular landscape features. Despite the general impression of neglecting the development of engineered roads, late medieval local communities, individuals and even official authorities have sometimes addressed traffic problems by developing road segments, or by commanding maintenance work for already existing ones, including some special features found along the route ways, such as bridges. Apart from general archival information on the maintenance of bridges, ferries, fords and other facilities near toll-collection points, there are also examples as concerns the construction of new road segments, the reopening of dilapidated or blocked ones, as well as dugout road lanes, engineered access roads and paved roads. However, not all of these data can be obtained from written sources, thus, compelling one to have a look at the evidence found on the field and retrieved by archaeological and cartographic research.

**Keywords:** communication network, law, medieval landscape, bridges, hollow ways, paved roads, Roman roads.

MIHAELA SANDA SALONTAI, **The castle church of Târgu Mureş as revealed in eighteenth century visual documents**

**Abstract:** The study aims to draw attention on a visual document from the eighteenth century held by the Austrian State Archives in Vienna, which reveals information about the former Franciscan church of Târgu Mureş, prior to its Baroque transformation (1790-1791). In question is a plan record of the town castle, drawn up in 1772 by Paul Schmidt, a local master mason originating from Bavaria, which renders the former Franciscan convent in Târgu Mureş. Of particular interest is the church ground plan, which contains a row of four pillars in the middle of the nave revealing a structure with two vessels, so far unknown. After the Franciscan friars were expelled in 1556, the church sustained serious damage during the 1601 siege of General Basta and the 1658 fights of George II Rákóczi for the princely throne of Transylvania, then again in 1704, when the city was burned down during the kuruc war (1702-1711). In 1693 the church suffered a renovation with the support of Michael Teleki, the nave being covered with a timber ceiling of which only two panels have survived and are exposed today on the north wall of the choir. The existence of a double-nave hall church is proved by written sources as well, such as the account of local pastor Gábor Nemes, who testified that originally the nave's ceiling had been sustained by pillars that were torn down during the 1790-91 renovation carried out by Paul Schmidt's disciple, Anton Türk. The premise of a medieval hall type structure was supported in the 1920's by conservator László Debreczeni, who has estimated the construction of the church in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and assumed that the ship was originally covered with ribbed vaults. The main argument in favor of a vaulted Gothic nave would be the presence of pier buttresses along the side walls.

Churches with two vessels of equal width divided by a row of pillars aligned in the axis of the choir represent an uncommon type of medieval religious buildings in